



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION IN GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR TECHNICAL AND SUPERVISORY HOUSING ASSISTANCE

TEMPLE, TEXAS, May 3, 2006— Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced the availability of \$1 million in grants that will provide for technical and supervisory housing assistance programs aimed to help rural residents to obtain or to continue to occupy affordable, suitable housing.

“When families move into their own home, they gain independence and confidence, and their faith in the future grows,” said Daniel. “The spread of ownership and opportunity helps give our citizens a vital stake in the future of America and the chance to realize the great promise of our country.”

USDA is targeting up to \$400,000 to eligible technical and supervisory housing assistance programs in rural Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas that serve residents affected by the 2005 Hurricanes. The remaining funds will be competed for nationally. No grant amount will exceed \$100,000. Grants will support programs of homeownership and financial counseling as well as the delivery of housing programs.

Potential applicants include nonprofit corporations, agencies, institutions, organizations, Indian Tribes or other associations. Private nonprofit corporations and faith-based organizations meeting certain criteria may apply.

USDA Rural Development local State Offices are the contact point for a preapplication package and are also where preapplication proposals must be received by May 17, 2006. The notice of funding availability published in April 17, 2006 Federal Register, can be viewed at Rural Development's website, www.rurdev.usda.gov, click on Available Funds.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Further information on rural programs is available by calling 254-742-9770 or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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